

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 OIC-04 DRC-01 /244 W

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R 201500Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3067

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: LDC ROLE IN MTN

1. PRINCIPAL IMPRESSIONS DRAWN FROM DEC 17-19 CALLS BY STR OFFICIAL, STEPHEN LANDE, AND MISOFF ON GATT OFFICIALS AND SELECTED LDC MISSIONS HERE ARE THAT LDOS WANT WORK STARTED ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND, WHILE THEY REGRET TNC IMPASSE, THEY ARE PREPARED LET MATTERS SLIDE FOR SOME WEEKS MORE TO SEE IF US/EC CAN RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES.

2. FOLLOWING POINTS RAISED ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS:

A) THEY HOPED MTN WOULD NOT WASTE TIME IN A DEFINITIONAL STRUGGLE OVER WHAT IS A TROPICAL PRODUCT. THEREFORE THEY WERE WILLING TO BEGIN WORK WITHOUT PREJUDICING QUESTION. IMPOR- TANT FACTOR FOR THEM IS THAT PRODUCTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BE GIVEN THE PRIORITY ATTENTION CALLED FOR IN THE TOKYO DECLARATION. NIGERIAN DELEGATE VENTURED PERSONAL VIEW THAT AS CERTAIN TROPICAL PRODUCTS WHICH COMPETE WITH TEMP- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ERATE AGRICULTURE ARE TOO BROAD TO BE NEGOTIATED IN THE TROPICAL

PRODUCT GROUP, THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHERE THEY WOULD RECEIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION WHICH, DEPENDING ON THE PRODUCT, COULD BE IN THE TROPICAL PRODUCT, AGRICULTURE, TARIFF, NTB, OR COMMODITY AREAS.

B) GATT OFFICIALS BELIEVE SUFFICIENT ANALYTICAL WORK ALREADY EXISTS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS TO IDENTIFY PROBLEMS AND TO ALLOW AS RAPID PROGRESS AS POLITICAL WILL PERMITS.

C) SELECTED LDC REPS, NOTABLY BRAZIL, NIGERIA AND INDIA, EXHIBITING WILLINGNESS TO FOREGO RHETORICAL APPROACH AND CONCENTRATE ON SERIOUS NEGOTIATION IN MTN. THEY BELIEVE TROPICAL PRODUCTS ARE IDEAL STARTING POINT TO DEMONSTRATE MUTUAL BENEFICIAL POSSIBILITIES OF MTN. IN THIS REGARD FOR COMPETITIVE TROPICALS, THEY HAVE OPEN MIND WHETHER TO WORK FOR PREFERENTIAL REDUCTIONS FAVORABLE TO LDCS OR MFN CONCESSIONS.

3. LDCS EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH US POSITION AND PUZZLEMENT OVER REAL MOTIVES BEHIND FRENCH BLOCK TO TNC PROGRESS. SOME LDC REPS INDICATED MILD RESENTMENT OVER BEING LEFT OUT OF "BIG POWER" EFFORTS TO RESOLVE DISPUTE BUT WE DID NOT FIND THEM EAGER TO INTERVENE WITH EC OR DG (OR US) TO PRESS AHEAD WITH MTN WORK NOR DID THEY HAVE ANY NEW IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO RESOLVE PRESENT IMPASSE. BASSIN

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